

"Yeah, how you doin'?" came the familiar gruff voice.

Any news? "They're done."

Done? When? "About 10 minutes ago."

Two hours passed before Gov. Rendell emerged with union and SEPTA leaders to announce the deal that ended the region's transit strike. Together, the governor and U.S. Rep. Robert A. Brady (D., Phila.) were called prime catalysts in events leading to the proposed settlement.

The duo worked like this: Rendell relied on his power over the state-created agency, and Brady relied on his patience to deal with the personalities of its managers and union leaders.

As for other officials, State Sen. Vincent J. Fumo (D., Phila.) was around but talking mostly through the ear of Brady. House Speaker John M. Perzel (R., Phila.) was set to jump in today, at a scheduled meeting at the Holiday Inn City Line, with SEPTA board chairman Pasquale T. "Pat" Dean.

And Mayor Street played a low-key role. He met with union leaders for five hours on Friday, phoned Deon later that day, and then made at least two calls to the governor late Sunday.

While Street was limited by strained ties with Harrisburg lawmakers, Rendell had "no choice" but to wade in, said J. Whyatt Mondesire, president of the Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP.

Rendell "could not have an election campaign gearing up after the holidays, and a bitter public-transit strike in his backyard," he said.

And Brady, Mondesire said, was "a natural bridge He talks a straight working-man's kind of language . . . and because he has political connections, the SEPTA people listen to him."

All involved with the negotiations said Brady—a labor leader from the carpenters' union and a peacemaker with a long record of settling feuds as a longtime head of the city's Democratic Party—cajoled them to talk, to keep talking, to talk until their minds could meet.

Brady "was very instrumental in this," said Jeffrey Brooks, president of Transport Workers Union Local 234.

Brady, of course, demurred—just as he did seven years ago at the end of the last SEPTA strike when he stood three rows deep at a news conference to announce a deal he helped broker to end that 40-day walkout.

"I just keep 'em talking, that's all," he said in yesterday's early hours. "They didn't talk for what—two, three days? This morning I met with the governor and Jeff at 8. They agreed to try and kick-start this thing back again. I told them, 'If you do, please don't stop until it's over. It's got to be done sooner or later, so why not do it sooner instead of later?'"

Brady was the first politician to visibly inject himself into the negotiations, turning up late Tuesday as the contract negotiations briefly resumed at the Crowne Plaza hotel.

Rendell, meanwhile, was the hands-on deal maker. He spoke out first from Harrisburg on Thursday, warning both sides that the strike was "killing" chances of getting the dedicated source of state funding that the perennially strapped SEPTA so sorely needs. And once in town, he said, he made a point of sitting down with Brooks and assuring him that SEPTA's pot of money for crafting a deal was finite—that it was all a matter of slicing it fairly.

That was the point made at a noon meeting on Sunday, where Brooks made his case to 50 or so mostly elected officials whom BRADY assembled at the Democratic City Committee headquarters.

"That's one thing we made clear to both sides," Rendell said. "If the strike goes on

too much longer, or if the settlement is not seen as affordable, then that seriously decreases our chances of getting dedicated funding."

City Councilman Michael A. Nutter said, "That meeting was certainly a part of what led to the contract."

All week long, Brady had been calling Brooks two or three times a day. Now, in what would be the final moments, Rendell and his staff stuck side by side with SEPTA's chief labor negotiator, Patrick Battel, from "basically 9 a.m. Sunday until we signed the memorandum of agreement at 5:30 a.m.," according to Battel. The governor, he said, "is a skilled mediator and a skilled politician."

To be sure, there were other factors.

"Looming in people's minds was the 40-day strike," said State Rep. Dwight Evans (D., Phila.). "People knew they could not afford to do that."

There was also, he said, the uncertain fate of SEPTA's financial future.

"Rendell's message was 'there is not going to be any new money,' and that is the same message Perzel and I were putting together as legislative leaders," Evans said.

As it turned out, that message was no longer needed.

LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a commendable and worthwhile non-profit organization which operates in my congressional district, the Legal Services of Northern Virginia.

Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) is celebrating its 25th year of providing free legal assistance and representation to those in our society who are unable to secure it on their own. The founders and staff of this invaluable organization have dedicated their time and energy to give voice to those who often go unheard.

The mission of Legal Services is to provide necessary legal assistance to low income individuals and families. The organization assists its clients on a wide range of issues including family law, consumer protections, housing, employment, and access to health care.

Through the work of LSNV, thousands of eligible residents in Northern Virginia have gained access to health care; moved into affordable housing, received over due child support payments to care for their children, and achieved citizenship in our great country.

Legal Services of Northern Virginia is an example of a great equalizer in our society. Without its extraordinary work and commitment of its staff, conscientious instructions and assistance, thousands of residents in Northern Virginia would not be able to pursue their legal rights and responsibilities.

Over the course of 25 years, LSNV has made sure that rights are more than theoretical concepts. It has worked to ensure that our laws and legal protections apply to all men and women equally, without regard to race, religion, or income level.

I am proud to stand before you today, in the House of the people, to recognize the great

accomplishments of Legal Services of Northern Virginia.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. BILL JANIS AS A FELLOW TO NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Traverse City, Michigan community, Mr. William G. Janis. On September 23, Mr. Janis was appointed a Fellow to Northwestern Michigan College. Mr. Janis' service to Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) stands as a shining example to us all.

Mr. Janis' service to NMC spans a wide range of roles including that of member and officer of the Board of Trustees; as a passionate leader and supporter in helping establish the Michigan Technical Education Center and as a life-long philanthropist whose efforts have helped establish the University Center, Dennon Museum Center, M-TEC and the Great Lakes Campus.

Born to George and Mary Janis in 1943, Mr. Janis is the oldest child in the Janis family. He attended school in Grosse Isle, Michigan and graduated from Grosse Isle High School in 1961. After graduation, he went on to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps. Upon being honorably discharged from the military, he continued his education at Michigan State University where Mr. Janis graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1970.

Upon graduating from Michigan State, Mr. Janis took a job with Century, Inc. in Wyandotte, Michigan. He worked in Wyandotte until he and seven employees moved the business to Traverse City, Michigan in 1974. Today, Mr. Janis is the owner and President of Century, Inc.; a business which employs two-hundred and eighty workers.

In 1976, Bill Janis and Susie Kildee exchanged marriage vows. Together, with their children from previous marriages, Eddie and Julie, they became a family. Bill and Susie Janis still reside in Traverse City where Mrs. Janis serves on a number of community boards and charities. Mr. Janis is an active member of the Munson Hospital Board, the Knife and Fork Club, and a Board Member of Huntington National Bank. In addition, Mr. Janis is also the owner of Leorie Vineyards in Traverse City and a partner in Black Star Farm's Winery.

Aside from his many business ventures, Mr. Janis remains an active member of the Detroit Men's Club and is an honorary member of the Michigan State Varsity Athletic Club. Mr. Janis is also an avid golfer with memberships to some of the country's most prestigious golf clubs including The Bear in North Palm Beach, Florida; Hobe Sound in Hobe Sound, Florida; The Medalist in Marshall, Michigan; and the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Bill Janis for being named a Fellow to Northwestern Michigan College and for his tireless service to the college and the organizations he provides with dedicated leadership. Beyond